

Message Text

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TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: 97TH EXBD:AGENDA ITEM 3.1.1:IN-DEPTH STUDY
OF ROLE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN UNESCO

1. DURING BOARD'S DISCUSSION OF THIS ITEM PERMDEL MAY WISH TO DRAW UPON FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON CARNEIRO REPORT, TO WHICH MEMBERS OF INFORMAL SOCIAL SCIENCE ADVISORY GROUP HAVE CONTRIBUTED:
2. CARNEIRO PROPERLY PAID TRIBUTE TO FIRST DG, HUXLEY, WHO CLEARLY RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES FOR UNESCO, WHICH IS TO SAY, FOR SOLUTION OF WORLD PROBLEMS, BUT THERE IS MARKED CONTRAST BETWEEN HUXLEY'S OPTIMISM AND CARNEIRO'S PESSIMISM (WHICH STRESSED FAILURES AND EXPRESSED DOUBT ABOUT FUTURE). WE FEEL HUXLEY'S IS RIGHT MOOD FOR UNESCO, WHICH SHOULD ESCHEW DEFENSIVE POSTURE AND ACCENTUATE POSITIVE. ORGANIZATION'S CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS OVER PAST 30 YEARS IN STIMULATING AND ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES.

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3. UNESCO'S ACHIEVEMENTS ALL MORE REMARKABLE IN VIEW
SOCIAL SCIENCE AREA'S SEVERELY LIMITED RESOURCES (WHICH
CARNEIRO OMITTED TO COMMENT UPON) AND UNREALISTIC DEMANDS

UPON IT FROM 135 MEMBER COUNTRIES, MOST OF WHICH ARE
FROM DEVELOPING WORLD, CONFRONTED BY URGENT SOCIO-
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. SPECIALISTS AVAILABLE FOR THIS
IMPORTANT WORK ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY. WHAT IS NEEDED
ARE SPECIALLY TRAINED SOCIAL SCIENTISTS WHO ARE MULTI-
DISCIPLINARY, CROSS CULTURAL, AND HAVE SPECIAL KNACK
FOR "GLOBALIZING " (TO USE CARNEIRO'S APT PHRASE). PARA
18 CONTAINS A GOOD STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS.

4. ANOTHER ISSUE WHICH CARNEIRO DOES NOT ADEQUATELY
ADDRESS IS URGENT NEED TO EXAMINE MODE AND RANGE OF
INTER-ACTION BETWEEN SOCIAL AND NATURAL SCIENCES,
WITH EYE TOWARD CONSIDERABLY INCREASED COLLABORATION
IN FUTURE, IN PLANNING AS WELL AS IMPLEMENTATION AND
EVALUATION STAGES. THIS TRUE, IN FACT, FOR ALL
UNESCO SECTORS, WHERE GREATER SOCIAL SCIENCE INPUT, AS
HUXLEY STRESSED, IS NOT JUST DESIRABLE BUT IMPERATIVE.
CARNEIRO'S SATISFACTION WITH WHAT UNESCO HAS ALREADY
ACHIEVED IN THIS RESPECT (PARA 19) SEEMS EXAGGERATED,
PERHAPS BECAUSE HIS EXPECTATIONS ARE MUCH MORE MODEST
THAN OURS. WE ARE ALSO MUCH LESS SANGUINE THAN
CARNEIRO (PARA 20) ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN
INTER-SECTORAL COORDINATION IN UNESCO IN ABSENCE OF
MAJOR CHANGES IN ATTITUDE. THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY
APPROACH DEPENDS, ABOVE ALL, ON A PROPER FRAME OF
MIND.

5. CARNEIRO IS CORRECT (PARA 11) IN EMPHASIZING NEED
TO CONSIDER MAJOR PROBLEMS (SOCIAL, INSTITUTIONAL,
BEHAVIORAL), ARISING FROM AN INDUSTRIAL CIVILIZATION
AND FROM SPREAD OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE. WE AGREE
THAT THIS IS VIRTUALLY A NEW FIELD, CALLING FOR
A REMARKABLE "CAPACITY FOR SYNTHESIS, AND EXTENSIVE
KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY, BIOLOGY, NATURAL SCIENCES AND
MATHEMATICS". THIS AGAIN POINTS UP IMPORTANCE OF
DEVELOPING NEW, MORE EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUES OF COLLA-
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BORATION WITH NATURAL SCIENCES IN ATTACKS ON GLOBAL
PROBLEMS.

6. CARNEIRO'S SORTIE INTO ETHICAL FIELD CAUSES US
SOME CONCERN. HIS OBSERVATIONS IN PARA 12 ARE POTENT-
IALLY MISCHIEVOUS, AT LEAST IN MANY OF THEIR
IMPLICATIONS. IN FACT, UNESCO'S EFFORTS IN THIS AREA
HAVE FAR MORE OFTEN LED TO HEAT THAN LIGHT. UNESCO

EXPERIENCE DOCUMENTS TENDENCY FOR CONCEPT OF MAN'S
"INTELLECTUAL AND MORAL SOLIDARITY" TO BE SPRINGBOARD
FOR PROPAGANDISTS RATHER THAN RALLYING POINT FOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. INGERSOLL

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